

Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership
Quarterly Meeting
January 27, 2017 9:30AM-noon

Agenda

- Welcome & introductions
- Ambassador transition
- What do we want to get done in 2017
- Partner updates & announcements

Ambassador transition

- Jen Birchfield, formerly of Save the Dunes, has accepted the position of Ambassador/Coordinator
- She will start March 1

2017 to-do list

- What are your agencies & organizations planning to do that others can help with?
- How can the new Ambassador support your work?
- What needs to get done that no one is doing?

Regional projects 2016 accomplishments

- 392 people on monthly e-newsletter
- 11 grant applications, 7 awarded
- NPS supported Wilderness Inquiry at the Dunes Learning Center
- IL-IN sea grant and partners developing Master Watershed Steward Program
- Much accomplished in several watershed groups, septic workgroup, Grand Cal AOC team, etc.

Regional tasks for 2017

- Septic systems: septic system awareness working group and Save the Dunes to implement outreach & education
 - Save the Dunes received grant to hire marketing firm for “get pumped” campaign
 - Will put signs in 2 pilot communities
 - Will conduct real estate agent training course with CE credits to be offered
- Interns: connect Purdue students with internships
 - Give Leslie a paragraph on projects you would like Purdue student interns (paid or non-paid) to help with
- Urban forestry: New urban waters coordinator works with USFS to continue developing a regional urban forest management plan

- Chi-Cal grant to plant 1000 trees in summer with students
- Work with volunteer programs / host trainings at Tree Keepers local group; Tree Stewards throughout state

What else (regional tasks)?

- Little Calumet clean-ups
- Climate change research, projects, what to expect and what to plan for
 - Save the Dunes received grant to compile regional data and research into a template – what to expect and how to plan for changes in climate (new ssp, etc.)
 - NPS and Notre Dame University already have assessments that can be used
 - Upcoming tree plantings in the region should all address climate change – what species are most appropriate for the new climate
- Wilderness inquiry funding needed
 - Trail Creek will host Sept 25-29, 2017 (should be able to get funding)
 - Kankakee will host Oct 2-6, 2017 (already funded)
 - DNR kids fishing event with WI on Sept 23, 2017
 - DLC events not funded yet
- Educational programs, education, outreach
 - **SUGGESTION:** *Form a subcommittee to coordinate better*
 - Work with / look at Calumet Stewardship Initiative work
- Water safety courses/programs
 - Website and materials (per Leslie D.)
 - Great Lakes Water Safety Consortium also exists – look at their information and share
 - Paddling safety
- Regional greenways & blueways plan being updated
- NRDC (USDA) presence?
 - LaPorte DC just retired, new one soon?
 - Other counties have good DC (Derek)
 - **REQUEST:** *Can UW push from higher level to get more participation from NRCS in NW IN?*
- Invasive species regional approach, cooperative work days, stewardship opportunities
 - Corporate stewardship work days by WHC (4 or 5 in 2017, with about 15 companies removing invasive ssp.)
 - Usually on corporate land, but also at Shirley Heinze or on NPS lands too
 - DNR (Derek or Emily) help with ID and herbicides
 - Have hired 2 interns (from a grant?)
 - **REQUEST:** *Save the Dunes has some land that needs a workday and volunteers (spring and fall) on East Branch of Trail Creek*

Trail Creek 2016 accomplishments

- Watershed group met regularly
- Finished 319 cost-share grant with success in manure storage, bank stabilization

- Canoemobile visits
- 3 green infrastructure workshops with city staff
- Outreach and education events included Trail creek week, Fun float

Trail Creek 2017 tasks

- Funding: secure \$15,000 for Wilderness Inquiry
- Update watershed plan
- Working on bioswales with coastal grant
- Submitting LARE grant application for \$40K agricultural projects (including cattle exclusion)

East branch of Little Calumet / Salt Creek accomplishments for 2016

- Environmental Assessment approved in 2016, to allow woody debris removal in 2017
- Shirley Heinze received a Chi-Cal grant

East branch Little Calumet 2017 tasks

- Recreation: implement NPS plan
- Need educational signage at debris removal areas
- Hopefully new recreation put-ins in 2017
- REQUEST: No currently active watershed group. Maybe new UWFP Ambassador can help with this?

Deep River 2016 accomplishments

- NIRPC received LARE grant for feasibility study for dam removal in Lake Station; need more \$ to complete the study
- Hobart received a \$340K GLRI grant for GI and bioswale installations

Deep River 2017 Tasks

- Have 319 grant funds of \$300K for BMP implementation, expires at end of 2017; Money is for on the ground and low-impact development planning
- Non-point source is not enough. Need to increase natural area restoration
 - Need help identifying what stream and wetland restoration looks like in landscape. Better plan for wetland restoration and hydrology.
 - Floodplain access? – Benches
 - Identify areas that can remain the same vs. development. Need a plan
 - Bioretention, rain guards, bioswales, hybrid systems
- Hobart work will go forward

Grand Calumet AOC 2016 accomplishments

- Jeorse Park Beach: USACOE implement ecosystem restoration
- Miller Spotlight initiative

Grand Calumet River/AOC 2017 tasks

- Continue support for Jeorse Park Beach
- Shoreline cities Grand Calumet info cards: what to do and what not to do
- Need to develop a recreation and stewardship plan
- Two BUIs may be removed soon
- Teacher workshop to be held in the summer?
- Field day with students at Roxana or DuPont / Beemsterboer in mid-May
- West branch / Lake George phragmites control by DNR and via SOGL grant (industry maintains, agrees to do the O&M)

Little Calumet west branch?

- Any interest in working there?
- **REQUEST:** *Permit Workshops – host in NW IN or have webinar*
 - What needs a permit and what doesn't
 - Floodplain, wetland fill, WQ cert, CWA 404/401
- **REQUEST:** *Road Streamway Crossing Inventory*
 - Need for fish passage / upstream migration planning
 - Ask USGS what they already have
 - Aquatic connectivity workgroup exists for Great Lakes, per Jeremy USFS

Updates & Announcements

- Jen comes onboard Mar. 1st
- Cherie is doing the newsletter for now
- Federal only meeting will be March 13 at 1pm in Chicago; let Feds know of any local projects that need help
- GIS internship with NIRPC (Joe) road/stream crossing for students
 - Aquatic conductivity
- Welcome to new EDA rep (Kyle)
 - Core programs (public works, TA, planning)
 - Tied to job-training, sustainable development
 - 50/50 match on grants, except HUD CDBG and USDA; rolling grant deadline
 - Brownfields redevelopment

Next joint Urban Water-EMPC meeting Thursday April 6, 2017 9am-12pm